



# Epi Monthly

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

December 2018

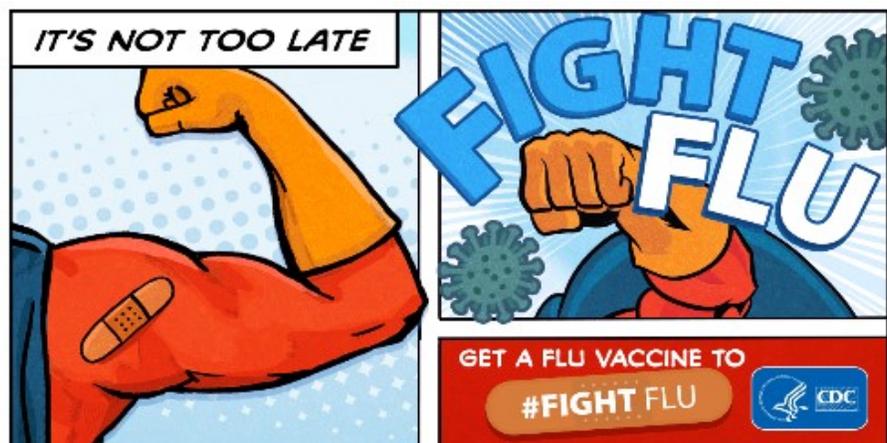
Vol 19, Issue 12

## This Month in Public Health

- World AIDS Day was celebrated on December 1, 2018, thirty years after the day was first commemorated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. At the Summit, delegates from 148 countries pledged to implement the World Health Organizations' Global AIDS Strategy and devise national programs to prevent and contain the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Since 1988, progress has been made to advance these efforts worldwide. For more information on how the Florida Department of Health works to promote these initiatives, please see the "In the Community" feature on page 2.
- December 2—8 marked National Handwashing Awareness Week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention promote handwashing as the most effective way to prevent infection. Studies have shown that handwashing can prevent 1 in 3 diarrhea-related sicknesses and 1 in 5 respiratory infections, such as a cold or the flu. Recommendations for [proper handwashing](#) include: using soap and clean running water, lathering and scrubbing the hand entirely for 20 seconds, and rinsing hands with clean running water, and drying hands completely with a clean towel or air dryer.
- The week of December 2—8 also commemorates National Influenza Vaccination Week. Flu vaccination coverage estimates from past seasons have shown that few people get vaccinated against influenza after the end of November and this week serves as a reminder to continue to fight the flu into the winter season. To find a flu shot near you, visit the Department's [Flu Shot Locator](#).

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## In the Community

### DOH Miami-Dade Observes **World AIDS Day**

On December 1, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (DOH Miami-Dade) united with communities worldwide in observation of the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day. For two weeks—from Thursday, November 29 to Thursday, December 6—DOH Miami-Dade and its partners hosted more than 20 events around the county. Events included resource fairs, free testing sites, block parties, health symposiums, and the First Annual AIDS Walk.

This year's national theme was "Know Your Status." On World AIDS Day and everyday, DOH Miami-Dade remains fully committed to fighting the spread of HIV in Miami-Dade County and helping connect HIV-positive individuals to lifesaving treatment and services.

Florida remains a national leader in HIV testing and DOH Miami-Dade joins the rest of the state in working to reduce HIV rates in Florida and Get to Zero. To do so, the Department focuses on four main strategies:

- Routine screening for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and implementation of CDC testing guidelines;
- Increased testing among high-risk populations and providing immediate access to treatment as well as re-engaging HIV positive persons into the care system, with the ultimate goal of getting HIV positive persons to an undetectable viral load;
- The use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) as prevention strategies to reduce the risk of contracting HIV; and
- Increased community outreach and awareness about HIV, high-risk behaviors, the importance of knowing one's status and if positive, quickly accessing and staying in treatment.

To make an appointment at the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County PrEP Clinic, contact 305-575-3800 and click on option 3. For other locations, visit [www.preplocator.org](http://www.preplocator.org).

For more information, call the Florida AIDS Hotline at 1-800-FLA-AIDS or 1-800-352-2437; En Español, 1-800-545-SIDA; In Creole, 1-800-AIDS-101.



# The Epidemiology of Salmonellosis in Miami-Dade County: A Provisional Analysis, 2012—2018

By: Vanessa Villamil

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## **Background**

Salmonellosis is a foodborne illness caused by the *Salmonella* bacteria. Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps that begin 12-72 hours after exposure and typically resolve within 4 to 7 days without treatment. In some cases, the infection may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream causing severe illness and hospitalization. It is estimated that salmonellosis is responsible for 1.2 million illnesses, 23,000 hospitalizations, and 450 deaths in the United States every year.<sup>1</sup> In November of 2018, there was a multistate outbreak of multi-drug resistant *Salmonella*. The strain was present in live turkeys and various turkey products.<sup>2</sup> This report summarizes the recent trends in salmonellosis cases in Miami-Dade County including provisional data for 2018.

## **Transmission**

The *Salmonella* bacteria is most commonly found in raw food items of animal origin including eggs, meat, poultry, and shellfish. Cross contamination between food items is common. Fruits and vegetables can also be contaminated. *Salmonella* may spread person to person via the fecal oral route as well as through contact with animals.

## **Risk Factors**

Anyone can be infected with *Salmonella*. Pregnant women, children younger than 5, adults 65 years or older, and individuals with compromised immune systems are at a higher risk for complications. Children under 5 are at the highest risk of being infected by *Salmonella* due to their developing immune systems and improper hand hygiene.

## **Methods**

Salmonellosis cases were extracted from Merlin, the Florida Department of Health's Epidemiology Surveillance System. Only confirmed cases of salmonellosis between 2012 and November 2018 in Miami-Dade County were included. Population data were retrieved from FLHealthCHARTS. The data were analyzed using SAS 9.4.

A confirmed case is defined as a person with confirmatory lab evidence.

## **Overview of cases**

There have been 4,802 cases of salmonellosis in Miami-Dade County between January 1, 2012 and November 30, 2018. In 2018, 676 cases have been reported thus far. Rates were highest among those between the ages of 0 and 4 (191.84 per 100,000) and lowest among those 18 to 44 years old (8.26 per 100,000). Rates were highest among Hispanics (22.95 per 100,000) as compared to Non-Hispanic Whites (20.73 per 100,000) and Non-Hispanic Blacks (10.6 per 100,000). Differences by gender were small and varied. Rates tended to spike in June and remained high through October. In 2018, 83% of infections were acquired in Florida while 6% were acquired outside of the United States.

## **Discussion**

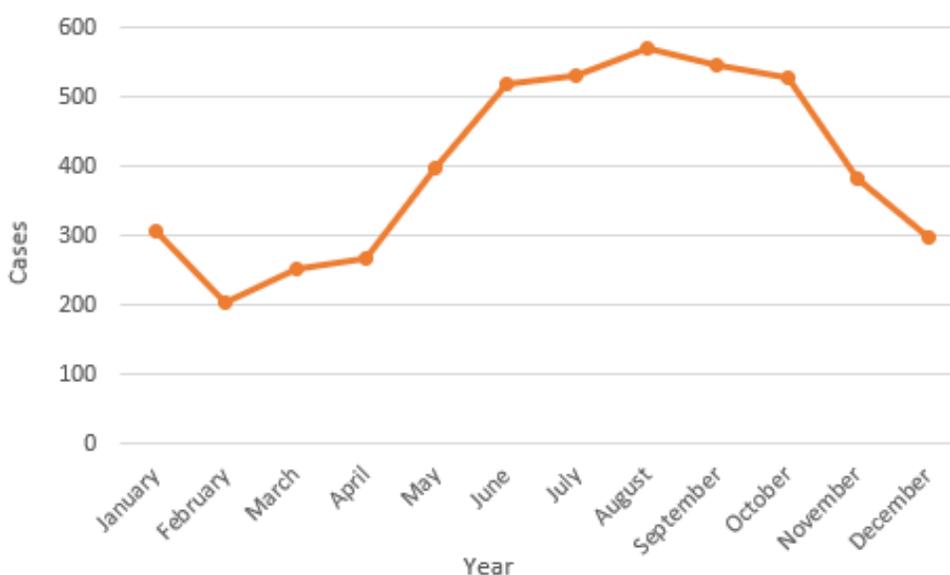
The highest rates of salmonellosis in Miami-Dade County were among children between the ages of 0 and 4 similar to nationwide trends. The seasonality of salmonellosis in Miami-Dade is longer than the national trend, reflecting the extended warm season. Despite the recent nationwide outbreaks of *Salmonella*, Miami-Dade County did not see a spike in salmonellosis in November.

## Prevention

There is currently no vaccine available to prevent salmonellosis. *Salmonella* is more common during the summer seasons when it is warm, so food must be kept refrigerated or frozen to prevent the bacteria's growth. Eating undercooked eggs, meat, poultry, or unpasteurized milk should be avoided.<sup>3</sup> Cross contamination of food can be prevented while cooking by keeping raw foods separate from produced and ready to eat foods and by thoroughly washing hands, cutting boards, counters, and utensils after contact with uncooked meats and meat products. Produce should be thoroughly washed before consumption. Reptiles, birds, baby chicks, or animal feces may carry salmonella as well therefore hands should be washed after any contact.<sup>3</sup> Persons with salmonellosis should not prepare food for others.

To report salmonellosis cases, please contact the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Epidemiology, Disease Control and Immunization Services by phone (305) 470-5660.

Figure 1. Reported salmonellosis cases by month—Miami-Dade County, January 1, 2012 to November 30, 2018.



## References

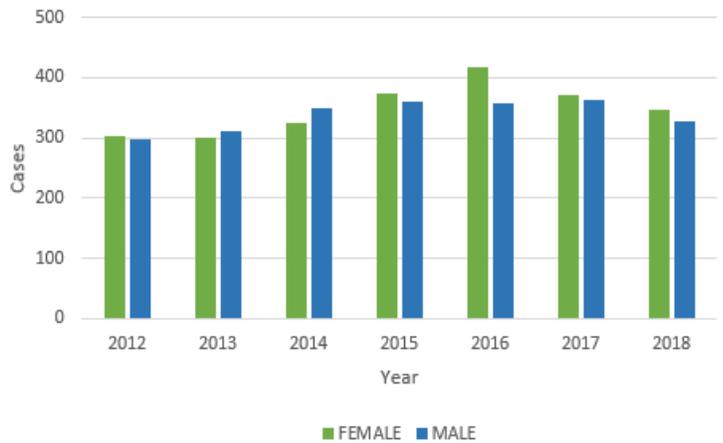
1. Salmonella. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/>. Published November 28, 2018.
2. Salmonella. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/reading-07-18/index.html>. Published December 21, 2018.
3. Salmonella. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/general/prevention.html>. Published November 1, 2018. Accessed December 27, 2018.

**Table 1.** Characteristics of salmonellosis cases and incidence rate per 100,000—Miami-Dade County, January 1, 2012 to November 30, 2018.\*

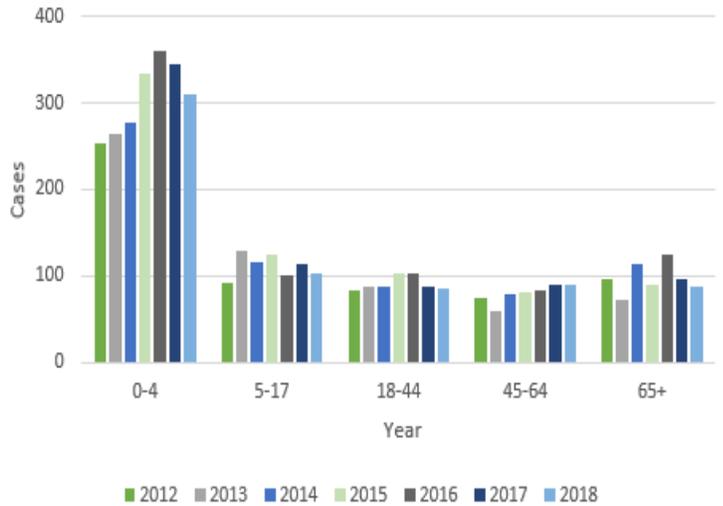
Summary			
Number of cases	676		
Incidence rate (per 100,000)	24.19		
Age (in years)	Number	Percent	Rate
0-4	311	46.0	191.84
5-17	102	15.1	25.00
18-44	85	12.6	8.26
45-64	90	13.3	12.01
65+	88	13.0	19.73
Gender			
Female	347	51.3	24.11
Male	327	48.4	24.12
Race/ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic White	80	11.8	20.73
Non-Hispanic Black	48	7.1	10.60
Hispanic	434	64.2	22.95
Other	28	4.1	
Unknown	86	12.7	
Travel status			
Acquired in Florida	560	82.8	
Acquired in U.S., not Florida	5	0.7	
Acquired outside of the U.S.	39	5.8	
Unknown	72	10.7	
Outbreak status			
Sporadic	654	96.7	
Outbreak-associated	20	2.9	

\* Data are provisional for the year 2018.

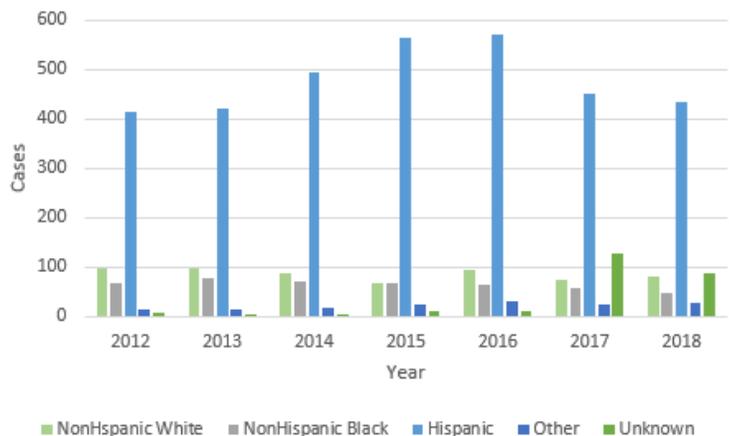
**Figure 2.** Salmonellosis case counts by gender—Miami-Dade County, January 1, 2012 to November 30, 2018.



**Figure 3.** Salmonellosis case counts by age group—Miami-Dade County, January 1, 2012 to November 30, 2018.



**Figure 4.** Salmonellosis case counts by race/ethnicity—Miami-Dade County, January 1, 2012 to November 30, 2018.

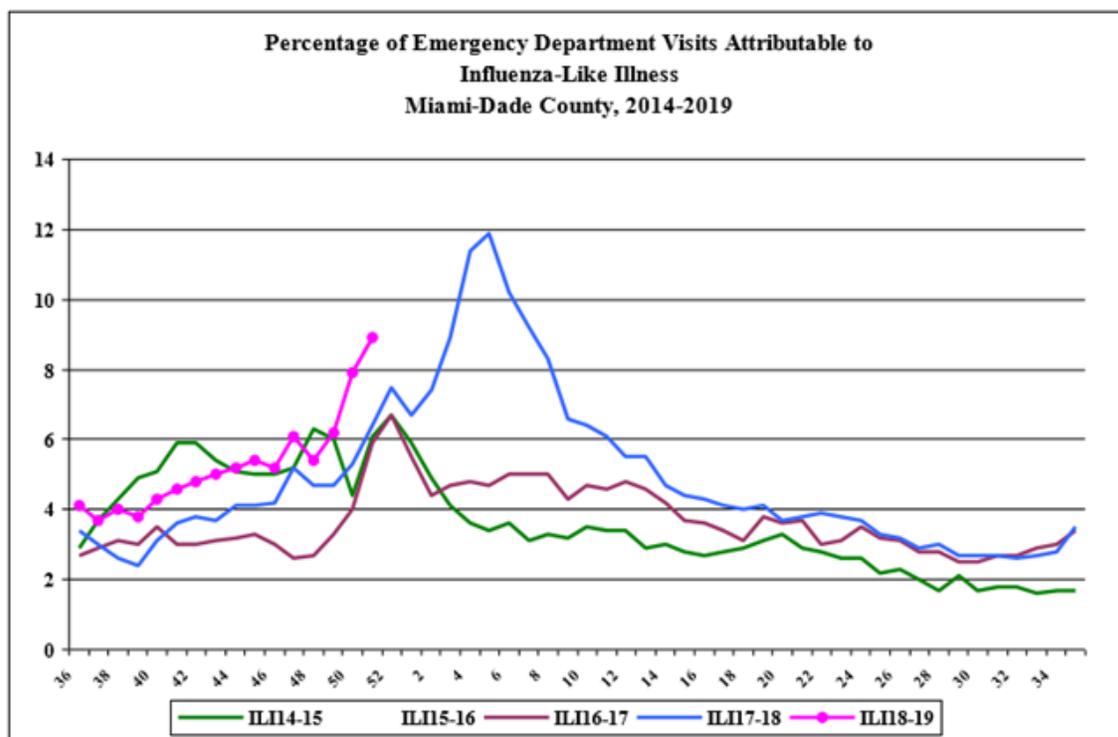


# Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Epidemiology, Disease Control and Immunization Services

## Influenza Like Illness Surveillance Report

On a daily basis, all of Miami-Dade County's emergency department (ED) hospitals electronically transmit ED data to the Florida Department of Health. This data is then categorized into 11 distinct syndromes. The influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome consists of fever with either cough or sore throat. It can also include a chief complaint of "flu" or "ILI". This season's 2017-2018 data is compared to the previous 4 influenza seasons (2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017).

### Influenza-Like-Illness, All Age



Across all ages, there were 35,284 ED visits; among them 3,133 (8.9%) were ILI. At the same week of last year, 6.4% of ED visits were ILI.

### PARTICIPATE IN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER SURVEILLANCE

#### Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County NEEDS Influenza Sentinel Providers!

Sentinel providers are key to the success of the Florida Department of Health's Influenza Surveillance System. Data reported by sentinel providers gives a picture of the influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S. and Florida which can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care.

- Providers of any specialty, in any type of practice, are eligible to be sentinel providers.
- Most providers report that it takes **less than 30 minutes a week** to compile and report data on the total number of patients seen and the number of patients seen with influenza-like illness.
- Sentinel providers can submit specimens free of charge from a subset of patients to the state laboratory for virus isolation **free of charge**.

For more information, please contact  
**Lakisha Thomas** at 305-470-5660.



## Miami-Dade County Monthly Report Select Reportable Disease/Conditions November 2018

Diseases/Conditions	2018 Current Month	2018 Year to Date	2017 Year to Date	2016 Year to Date
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>				
AIDS*	20	383	443	27
HIV	101	1188	1332	127
<b>STD</b>				
Infectious Syphilis*	46	444	346	375
Chlamydia*	1051	12323	11132	10959
Gonorrhea*	351	3896	3056	2575
<b>TB</b>				
Tuberculosis**	10	110	74	84
<b>Epidemiology, Disease Control &amp; Immunization Services</b>				
<b>Epidemiology</b>				
Campylobacteriosis	62	739	1252	516
Chikungunya Fever	0	1	2	0
Ciguatera Poisoning	1	36	20	14
Cryptosporidiosis	4	42	78	26
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	8	2
Dengue Fever	11	28	18	17
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	7	134	68	7
Encephalitis, West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis, Acute	9	163	240	179
Influenza Novel Strain	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Pediatric Death	0	1	2	0
Legionellosis	5	59	84	22
Leptospirosis	0	1	0	0
Listeriosis	0	5	14	5
Lyme disease	2	6	12	2
Malaria	0	11	10	8
Meningitis (except aseptic)	2	11	20	2
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	12	1
Salmonella serotype Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	4	4	1
Salmonellosis	93	795	1492	675
Shigellosis	20	270	206	70
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Drug Resistant	1	15	46	5
Vibriosis	0	6	8	9
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0
<b>Immunization Preventable Diseases</b>				
Measles	0	3	0	4
Mumps	2	9	14	4
Pertussis	1	17	68	22
Rubella	0	0	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	0
Varicella	9	75	88	68
<b>Hepatitis</b>				
Hepatitis A	3	18	238	40
Hepatitis B (Acute)	6	50	78	23
<b>Healthy Homes</b>				
Lead Poisoning	14	176	752	101

\*Data is provisional at the county level and is subject to edit checks by state and federal agencies.

\*\* Data on tuberculosis are provisional at the county level.

Data on EDC-IS includes Confirmed and Probable cases.

## What's New at DOH Miami-Dade

- Earlier this month, we celebrated Dr. Lillian Rivera's 28 years of public service as we prepare to wish her well in her upcoming retirement. Dr. Rivera served for many years as our Health Administrator during public health emergencies, including Hurricane Andrew, H1N1, Ebola, and the Zika virus outbreak. We thank her for her many years of leadership and guidance and wish her a relaxing and well deserved retirement.
- The Florida Department of Health is pleased to announce that Dr. Yesenia Diaz Villalta has been selected as administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. She was appointed by State Surgeon General and Secretary Dr. Celeste Philip and approved unanimously by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Villalta will succeed Dr. Lillian Rivera who is retiring from this position after 28 years of service.
- The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County will be closed on Monday, December 31, 2018 and Tuesday, January 1, 2019 in observance of the New Year holidays.



## Did You Know?



Earlier this month, the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released "Frequently Asked Flu Questions 2018-2019 Influenza Season." The list of questions spans topics from vaccine recommendations, implications of cell-based vaccines, projected flu activity and general information on the virus. The list is a great resource for healthcare providers and community members alike and can be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2018-2019.htm>.

***We wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season and a happy New Year!***

### To report diseases and for information, call EDC-IS at:

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	305-470-6877
Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance	305-470-5660
Hepatitis Program	305-470-5536
HIV/AIDS Program	305-470-6999
Immunization Services	305-470-5660
STD Program	305-575-5430
Tuberculosis Program	305-575-5415
Appointment Line	786-845-0550

### About the Epi Monthly Report

The Epi Monthly Report is a publication of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County: Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services. The publication serves a primary audience of physicians, nurses, and public health professionals. Articles published in the Epi Monthly Report may focus on quantitative research and analysis, program updates, field investigations, or provider education. For more information or to submit an article, please contact Danielle Fernandez at 305-470-6980 or [danielle.fernandez@flhealth.gov](mailto:danielle.fernandez@flhealth.gov).

